

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Sub B1
1. (Original) A method for patching a computer application program including a plurality of executable steps, comprising:

- (a) determining whether or not the computer application program is compatible with a computer operating system executing the computer application program; and
- (b) if the computer application program is determined to be incompatible with the computer operating system, starting a debugger to run the computer application program.

2. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1[[,]] wherein the debugger is capable of running the incompatible application, by:

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- (a) setting at least one breakpoint within the application indicating a stopping point for the debugger;
 - (b) running the steps of the application through the debugger;
 - (c) monitoring the steps of the application as the application is running through the debugger to determine if the at least one breakpoint has been reached; and
 - (d) patching the application when a breakpoint has been reached; and
 - (e) executing steps (b), (c), and (d) until the application has finished running.

3. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1[[,]] wherein determining if the application is compatible or incompatible with the operating system comprises:

- (a) determining if at least one identifying attribute of a plurality of identifying attributes of the ~~started~~ computer application program matches at least one identifying attribute of a plurality of identifying attributes of incompatible applications; and
- (b) if at least one of the identifying attributes matches, determining that the ~~running~~ computer application program is incompatible, otherwise determining that the ~~running~~ computer application program is compatible.

4. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 3[[,]] wherein determining if the application is compatible or incompatible with the operating system further comprises:

- storing identifying attributes of incompatible applications; and
- retrieving at least one of the stored identifying attributes for determining if at least one identifying attribute of a plurality of identifying attributes of the ~~started~~ computer application program matches at least one of the stored identifying attributes of incompatible applications.

5. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 2[[,]] wherein setting the at least one breakpoint within the application comprises:

- (a) loading a debugger dynamic link library containing a list of breakpoints, each breakpoint having a handler having a set of instructions for patching the application; and
- (b) the debugger accessing the list of breakpoints from the debugger dynamic link library and setting the breakpoints within the application.

6. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 5[[,]] wherein patching the application when a breakpoint has been reached comprises:

- (a) calling the handler associated with the breakpoint; and
- (b) patching the incompatible application based on the instructions within the handler.

7. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for patching a computer application program including a plurality of executable steps, which, when the computer executable instructions are executed, comprise:

- (a) determining whether or not the computer application program is compatible with a computer operating system executing the computer application program; and
- (b) if the computer application program is determined to be incompatible with the computer operating system, starting a debugger to run the computer application program.

8. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 7[[,]] wherein the debugger is capable of running the incompatible application, by:

- (a) setting at least one breakpoint within the application indicating a stopping point for the debugger;
- (b) running the steps of the application through the debugger;
- (c) monitoring the steps of the application as the application is running through the debugger to determine if the at least one breakpoint has been reached; and
- (d) patching the application when a breakpoint has been reached; and
- (e) executing steps (b), (c), and (d) until the application has finished running.

9. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 7[[,]] wherein determining if the application is compatible or incompatible with the operating system comprises:

(a) determining if at least one identifying attribute of a plurality of identifying attributes of the ~~started~~ computer application program matches at least one identifying attribute of a plurality of identifying attributes of incompatible applications; and

(b) if at least one of the identifying attributes matches, determining that the ~~running~~ computer application program is incompatible, otherwise determining that the ~~running~~ computer application program is compatible.

10. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 8[[,]] wherein determining if the application is compatible or incompatible with the operating system further comprises:

storing identifying attributes of incompatible applications; and

retrieving at least one of the stored identifying attributes for determining if at least one identifying attribute of a plurality of identifying attributes of the ~~started~~ computer application program matches at least one of the stored identifying attributes of incompatible applications.

11. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 8[[,]] wherein setting the at least one breakpoint within the application comprises:

(a) loading a debugger dynamic link library containing a list of breakpoints, wherein each breakpoint has a handler having a set of instructions for patching the application; and

(b) the debugger accessing the list of breakpoints from the debugger dynamic link library and setting the breakpoints within the application.

12. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of Claim 11[[,]] wherein patching the application when a breakpoint has been reached comprises:

(a) calling the handler associated with the breakpoint; and

(b) patching the incompatible application based on the instructions within the handler.

13. (Currently amended) A computer system for patching a computer application program[[,]] wherein the computer system is capable of running an application having a plurality of executable steps, the method comprising:

(a) determining whether or not the computer application program is compatible with a computer operating system executing the computer application program; and

(b) if the computer application program is determined to be incompatible with the computer operating system, starting a debugger to run the computer application program.

14. (Currently amended) The computer system of Claim 13[[,]] wherein the debugger is capable of running the incompatible application[[,]] by:

- (a) setting at least one breakpoint within the application indicating a stopping point for the debugger;
- (b) running the steps of the application through the debugger;
- (c) monitoring the steps of the application as the application is running through the debugger to determine if the at least one breakpoint has been reached; and
- (d) patching the application when a breakpoint has been reached; and
- (e) executing steps (b), (c), and (d) until the application has finished running.

15. (Currently amended) The computer system of Claim 13[[,]] wherein determining if the application is compatible or incompatible with the operating system comprises:

- (a) determining if at least one identifying attribute of a plurality of identifying attributes of the ~~started~~ computer application program matches at least one identifying attribute of a plurality of identifying attributes of incompatible applications; and
- (b) if at least one of the identifying attributes matches, determining that the ~~running~~ computer application program is incompatible, otherwise determining that the ~~running~~ computer application program is compatible.

16. (Currently amended) The computer system of Claim 15[[,]] wherein determining if the application is compatible or incompatible with the operating system further comprises:

- storing identifying attributes of incompatible applications; and
- retrieving at least one of the stored identifying attributes for determining if at least one identifying attribute of a plurality of identifying attributes of the ~~started~~ computer application program matches at least one of the stored identifying attributes of incompatible applications.

17. (Currently amended) The computer system of Claim 14[[,]] wherein setting the at least one breakpoint within the application comprises:

- (a) loading a debugger dynamic link library containing a list of breakpoints, wherein each breakpoint has a handler having a set of instructions for patching the application; and

(b) the debugger accessing the list of breakpoints from the debugger dynamic link library and setting the breakpoints within the application.

18. (Currently amended) The computer system of ~~Claim 15~~ Claim 17[[,]] wherein patching the application when a breakpoint has been reached comprises:

- (a) calling the handler associated with the breakpoint; and
 - (b) patching the incompatible application based on the instructions within the handler.
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